DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 022 850 VT 002 794

RHODE ISLAND: ITS PEOPLE AND ITS ECONOMY; RHODE ISLAND VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Columbia Univ., New York, N.Y. Inst. of Field Studies.
Pub Date Jun 66
Note-64p.
EDRS Price MF-$0.50 HC-$2.64
Descriptors-*ECONOMICS, *EMPLOYMENT TRENDS, FAMILY INCOME, *HISTORY, LABOR FORCE, MOBILITY, POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, *POPULATION TRENDS, *PUBLIC EDUCATION, URBAN POPULATION
Identifiers-Rhode Island

Information relative to population and employment is presented for use by the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education. Included are (1) an historical review of the State and its public education, (2) characteristics of the population such as origin, age and sex distribution, educational attainment, mobility, patterns, and income, (3) characteristics of the labor force such as number and employment patterns, and (4) population trends and projections for the State and urban areas for the period from 1960 to 1985. (EM)

C.1

000581

ED022850

RHODE ISLAND

ITS

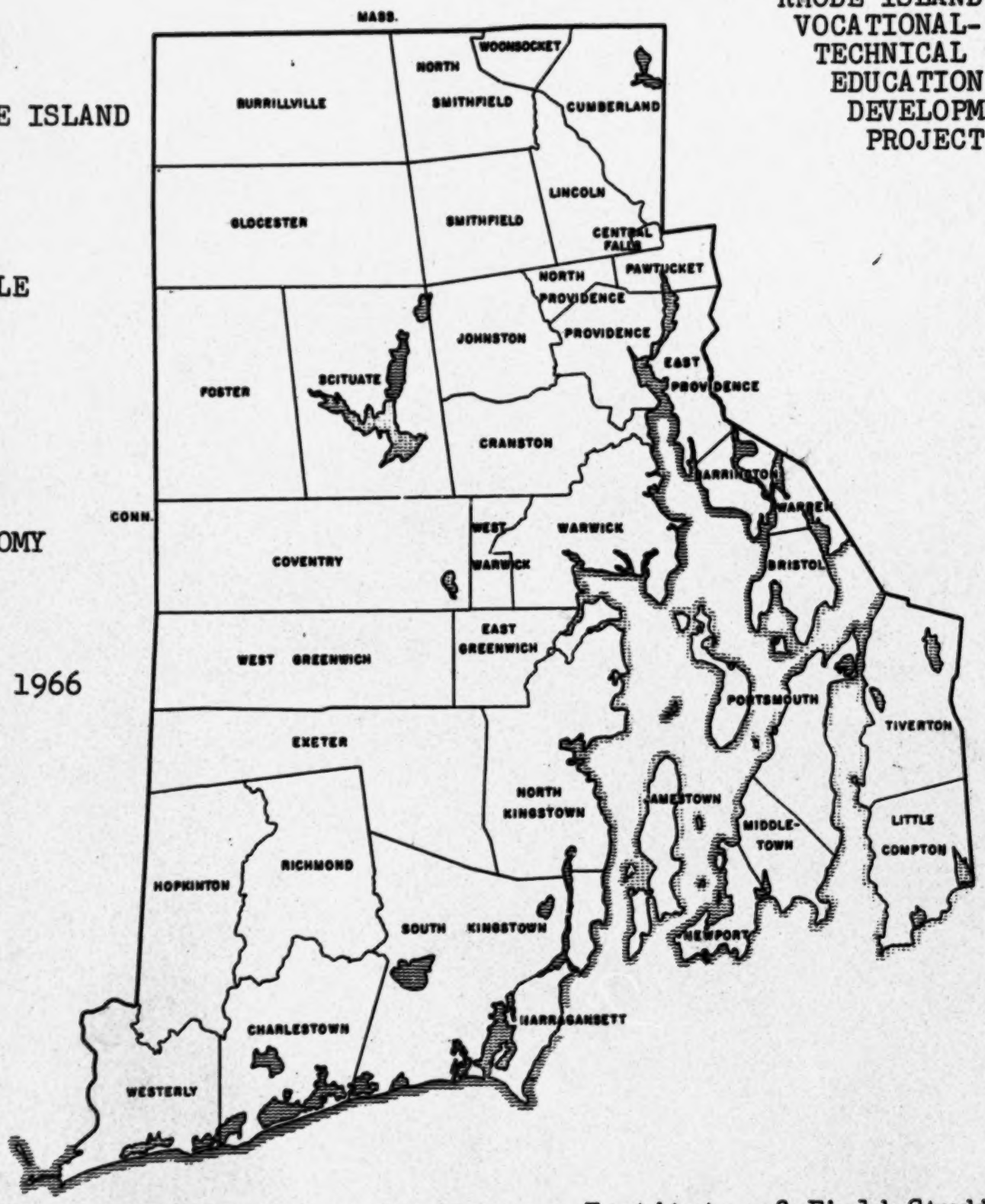
PEOPLE

AND

ITS

ECONOMY

JUNE 1966



RHODE ISLAND VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Institute of Field Studies
Teachers College, Columbia University
New York City 10027

VT 02794

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

Rhode Island Vocational-Technical Education Development Project

RHODE ISLAND: ITS PEOPLE AND ITS ECONOMY

Prepared by

Institute of Field Studies
Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, New York

June 1966

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Robert R. Pickard, Chairman	East Greenwich
Joseph L. Byron, Vice-Chairman	Newport
Edwin C. Brown	Providence
Louis J. DeAngelis	Providence
Robert Finkelstein	Woonsocket
George E. Forcier, Jr.	Warwick
Richard F. Staples	Barrington

Dr. William P. Robinson, Jr.
Commissioner of Education

CONSULTATION STAFF

The following members of the professional and consulting staff of the Institute of Field Studies, Teachers College, Columbia University, participated in the various studies and in the preparation of this report:

Willard S. Elsbree, Coordinator
Institute of Field Studies

Edward F. Davey, Associate Coordinator
Rhode Island State Department of Education

Robert A. Streeter, Assistant Coordinator
Institute of Field Studies

Consultants

Lynn A. Emerson, Vocational-Technical Educational Programs
Hightstown, New Jersey

Walter M. Ormsby, Secondary School Vocational Facilities
Patchogue, Long Island, New York

Felix J. McCormick, Post-Secondary Vocational-Technical School Plant Facilities, Institute of Field Studies

Walter E. Sindlinger, Post-Secondary Educational Programs
Teachers College, Columbia University

Research Assistants

Bruce Thompson
Malcolm Zweibel

Secretaries

Jane Edwards
Ronnie Ruggere

David B. Austin, Acting Director
Institute of Field Studies
Teachers College, Columbia University

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		PAGE
FOREWORD		v.
CHAPTER		
I	THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND	1
II	POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	13
III	THE LABOR FORCE	33
IV	POPULATION TRENDS IN RHODE ISLAND	46

FOREWORD

This is the seventh of a series of reports prepared by the Institute of Field Studies, Teachers College, Columbia University for the Rhode Island State Board of Education, as part of the Vocational-Technical Education Development Project. The report contains a brief historical review of Rhode Island with special emphasis on the development of public education in the state. In addition, the report contains an analysis of various population characteristics and a review of changing employment patterns. Finally, the report includes a summary of major population trends and an estimate of future population to 1985.

Much of the data in this report was collected, analyzed and organized in the early stages of the Project in late 1964 and early 1965 to serve as source and background material for the Project staff in the development and evaluation of major proposals. Since the report should be considered an integral part of the series of reports prepared by the Institute, no attempt has been made to update the material beyond that used in the earlier working documents.

The report is now presented in its present form so that the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education may have readily available in one document some of

FOREWORD (Cont'd)

the pertinent information concerning population and employment trends in Rhode Island. To be most helpful over the years, this report should be revised frequently, at least annually or whenever major changes occur in state and local trends.

CHAPTER I

THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island has the distinction of being the smallest state in the Union but it has the longest official name: State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Rhode Island encompasses an area of 1,497 square miles, including over 200 square miles of inland water. Its greatest distance in a north-south direction is 48 miles; it is 37 miles from east to west. It has a general coast line of only 76 miles, but the many bays and coves add 170 more miles to the shoreline. Narragansett Bay extends 28 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean and divides the state into two major parts, of which the western section is the larger.[1]

About nine miles from Rhode Island's coast, midway between Point Judith on the main land and Montauk Point, New York, lies Block Island, with an area of 11 square miles.

Rhode Island is bordered by Massachusetts on the north and east and by Connecticut on the west. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the south.

Rhode Island has two principal natural land regions, the Coastal Lowlands and the Eastern New England Upland. The Coastal

---

[1]Federal Writers Project, Rhode Island: A Guide to the Smallest State (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1937), p. 3

Lowlands cover about two-thirds of the state including all Rhode Island east of Narragansett Bay, the islands in the bay, and more than half of western Rhode Island. The Eastern New England Upland covers about a third of the state in the northwestern area and is a rough and hilly region which rises sharply from about 200 feet to more than 800 feet above sea level. It includes the highest point in the state, Jerimoth Hill (812 feet).

The Providence, Seekonk and Sakonnet Rivers are salt-water arms of Narragansett Bay. Important rivers of Rhode Island include the Potowomut, Pawtuxet, Moshassuck, Woonasquatucket and Blackstone. The Pawcatuck River forms part of the boundary between Rhode Island and Connecticut, and is the largest river in the western section of the state. Old mill towns and manufacturing cities line the banks of small but swift rivers and the valleys are thickly populated.

Small lakes and ponds formed by glaciers dot the state. Many of them are popular summer resorts. The largest inland body of water is the Scituate Reservoir, which covers about 93 square miles and serves as the chief source of water for Providence.

Rhode Island has few important natural resources other than the thick forests that cover about two-thirds of the state. The warming waters of Narragansett Bay make Rhode Island's climate milder than that of other New England states and have helped make the Narragansett Bay section a resort center.

Rhode Island is dominated by its capital city, Providence, which with Pawtucket, Cranston, Central Falls, East Providence, Warwick and Woonsocket form part of the metropolitan Providence area.

Historical Background

Miquel Corterreal, a Portuguese navigator, was probably the first European to see the land that is now Rhode Island, when he sailed along the coast in the year 1511. A Florentine in the service of France, Giovanni da Verrazano, entered Narragansett Bay in 1524 and may be responsible for having given Rhode Island its name. He wrote in a letter to Francis I of France that an island in the vicinity resembled the Mediterranean Island of Rhodes. Some historians, however, believe that it was Adriaen Block, a Dutch navigator, who named the region. In 1614, he referred to an island in Narragansett Bay as "Roodt Eylandt (Red Island)," because of the fiery aspect of the soil caused by the red clay in some portions of its shores.

Roger Williams was driven out of Massachusetts because of his unorthodox opinions. Called "the Father of Rhode Island," he founded Providence in 1636 on land purchased from the chiefs of the Narragansett Indians. Williams obtained a charter from the English Parliamentary Commission in 1644 uniting Providence, Newport, Warwick and Portsmouth under the name of Providence Plantations. In 1663, King Charles II granted a royal charter to

Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations. This charter remained in effect throughout the colonial and statehood periods until 1842.

Rhode Island's population did not begin to expand until the eighteenth century. From a population of about 7,000 in the first decade of the eighteenth century, the population rose to about 60,000 by 1774.[1] The rapid growth was due primarily to shipbuilding and maritime commerce, which flourished during the period and provided employment to those who were not engaged in farming. By 1774, Rhode Island was the most densely populated colony with 45 persons per square mile, and Newport, with a population in excess of 9,000, was the fourth leading city of the New World.[2]

A plantation system of farming had developed in southern Rhode Island during the early 1700's and resembled, somewhat, the plantation system of the South. The Islands in Narragansett Bay and the coastal regions were fertile and well adapted for grazing. Many wealthy planters had farms of a thousand acres or more and owned slaves who tilled the soil and cared for horses, sheep and cattle. Ships owned by the Newport merchants carried the products of the Narragansett farms to other colonies and to the West Indies.

On May 4, 1776, the Rhode Island Legislature adopted

---

[1]Evarts B. Greene and Virginia D. Harrington, American Population Before the Federal Census of 1790 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1932), p. 62-63.

[2]Sidney Goldstein and Kurt B. Mayer, Metropolitanization and Population Change in Rhode Island (Providence, R. I. :Rhode Island Development Council, 1961), p. 5.

a resolution of independence from the British Crown. This act antedated by two months the Declaration of Independence of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.

The outbreak of the Revolutionary War ended the prosperity of the colony. The Narragansett planters could no longer ship their products abroad because Britain controlled the seas. The British occupied Newport, Rhode Island's leading commercial center, in December of 1776 and remained until October 1779. By the end of the war, Newport had been devastated, a blow from which it never fully recovered.[1]

With the return of peace, prosperity was restored. Rhode Island soon developed into a leading industrial state, with rapidly expanding factories and mills. This growth resulted mainly from the beginning of textile manufacturing. The first cotton-spinning jenny had been set up in Providence in 1787. Three years later, the first water-powered machines for spinning cotton yarn were built at Pawtucket. The industry grew rapidly because of an abundance of water power, the proximity of the Boston and New York markets, good transportation, and the Jefferson embargo of 1807, which prohibited the import of foreign textiles. Thousands of people moved

---

[1]Kurt B. Mayer, Economic Development and Population Growth in Rhode Island (Providence, R. I. :Brown University Press, 1953), p. 22.

from rural areas of the state into the cities and towns to work in the textile mills.

Other industries began to develop. In 1794, Nehemiah Dodge, of Providence, discovered a way to wash or cover cheap metals with precious metals, thus founding the American jewelry industry. Between 1775 and 1850 Newport, Providence and Warren ranked as important whaling centers. The fishing industry was also coming into prominence as a contributor to Rhode Island's prosperity.

In 1842, growing dissatisfaction with voting restrictions and under-representation of urbanized areas resulted in the adoption of Rhode Island's first state constitution, replacing the original royal charter of 1663.

A new period of economic expansion occurred after 1840 which was to continue for more than 70 years. During that time, the state population of about 100,000 increased five-fold and manufacturing employment increased twelve times.[1] It was an era of heavy population influx. Successive waves of immigrants from Ireland, Canada, and Italy, and to a lesser extent from Eastern Europe and Portugal, were attracted by the job opportunities available in the state's expanding textile mills and metal, machinery, and jewelry factories.

The first World War brought to a close the period of rapid population growth. Among the first states to be industrialized,

---

[1] Ibid., p. 53.

Rhode Island with its heavy commitment to the textile industry, felt the competition of newer manufacturing areas located closer to more rapidly growing markets. The state's textile industry began a steady decline during the 1920's when many textile plants shifted their operations to the southern states. As a result of this shift, the manufacture of machinery, machine tools, and metal products became increasingly important to Rhode Island's economy. Between 1910 and 1960 the state's total population increased by only 58 per cent, while that of the United States almost doubled.

Goldstein and Mayer[1] trace the slowing of Rhode Island's growth rate to three distinct developments: (1) immigration restrictions after World War I; (2) a declining birth rate which reached an all-time low in the 1930's; and (3) out-migration to other states. They conclude that unless important improvements occur in local employment opportunities, it is likely that the state will continue to experience a migration loss and to grow at a slower pace in the future.

Public Education in Rhode Island

In 1640, one year after its settlement, the town of Newport granted four acres of land for a school site and set aside two hundred acres of land to support the school and to provide for the

---

[1] Goldstein and Mayer, Op. Cit., p. 7

salary of a schoolmaster. Robert Lenthal, a Church of England clergyman from Weymouth, Massachusetts, was the first schoolmaster in Rhode Island. By 1700 there were schools, or lands allotted for the support of schools, in Warwick, Barrington, Bristol and Providence.

By the middle of the 18th century, a number of private schools were operating in Newport and Providence. In addition to instruction in elementary subjects such as reading and writing, courses in French, music, and dancing were offered.

In 1765, Thomas Ninigret, a Narragansett Indian petitioned the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to found a school for the free education of the children of his tribe, and in 1768 there was an unsuccessful movement to establish a public school system in the City of Providence.

In 1800, the first free public school law of state-wide scope was passed which provided for teachers and a school in each town. This law was repealed three years later, but Providence continued to build its public school system.

Until 1828, public education largely depended for support on the proceeds of lotteries. In that year a permanent school fund of $5,000 was set up and in 1836 this fund was increased by the state's share in the distribution of surplus federal revenue. An amount of $328,335.30 was deposited in local banks at five per cent interest

and the General Assembly ordered that the annual income from the deposits be paid to the towns for support of the public schools. In 1845, the state increased its annual appropriation for schools to $25,000 and since that time it has periodically increased this sum.

In 1842, the legislature passed a bill providing for a state-wide survey of the public schools of Rhode Island. Henry Barnard of Connecticut, one of the leading educators of the nineteenth century, was assigned the task. As a result of his work, the school law of 1845 was passed, which marked the beginning of Rhode Island's present public school system. Under this law, a commissioner of public schools, appointed by the governor, was empowered to apportion the annual state appropriations, to adjust and decide disputes arising from school laws, and to supervise generally such matters as the selection of text books and books for school libraries. The law provided for the organization of the town schools into the state system and required the school committees of the various townships to supervise the town schools and teachers, to make reports to the commissioner, and to distribute public monies among the town districts.

Other important educational events of the 1840's included the setting aside of funds for the education of the blind, the deaf, and feeble-minded; the opening of the first Catholic school in the basement of a church in Providence; the first child labor law prohibiting children under twelve from working in mills; and the founding of the first evening school.

The State Board of Education was organized in 1870 and had as its principal function the general supervision of the public schools. It was empowered to elect the Commissioner of Public Schools and to receive his reports.

By 1870, there were six public high schools in Rhode Island, and state aid was extended to the teacher training institutes, evening schools, and public libraries.

The consolidation of small ungraded schools was required by the legislature in 1898 and before the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, all school districts had been reorganized. In addition, provision for high school instruction was made obligatory on the towns, and a minimum salary schedule and pensions for teachers had been passed.

In 1935, a sweeping reorganization of state government took place and the State Board of Education and the Commissioner were replaced by a Department under a Director. Thus, the office of Director of Education inherited the broad powers and duties formerly assigned to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner. This arrangement lasted until 1951 when, as a result of a study conducted by the U.S. Office of Education, the State Board of Education and the position of Commissioner of Education were re-established.[1]

---

[1] U.S. Office of Education, Improving Education in Rhode Island (Providence, R.I.: Rhode Island State Department of Education, 1947).

In 1941, Paul R. Mort[1] released his report of the study of Rhode Island's public schools. He showed that the expenditures for education in the state had been depressed by an overburdening of the single tax available to the local communities -- the property tax. Mort's recommendations included the establishment of a minimum foundation program for school support and an equalization feature to provide state assistance to communities of low economic ability.

The 1955 school finance act incorporated Mort's recommendations and set the minimum foundation program at a level above any community in the state. Each community was given three years to meet the minimum program established by the act. When the three years had passed, it became evident that the mounting costs due to inflation, the rise in living standards, and the urge for betterment had made the earlier objectives obsolete. In 1957, state aid was liberalized by increasing the state's share of the foundation program.

In 1959, the State Board of Education in its recommendations for legislative action called for quality education for all Rhode Island youth through an adequate minimum program and at the same time sought to encourage school improvement beyond the

---

[1]Paul R. Mort, Schools for Our Children, Report of a Survey of the Structure and Operation of the Rhode Island Public School System, (Providence, R. I.: Commission on the Legal Structure of Rhode Island Public Education, 1941).

minimum.[1] The School Finance Act of 1960 provided for the state to share not only in the minimum program but in all expenditures at whatever level local school districts choose. This sharing relationship applied to both operational and capital expenditures. Thus, each school district could, in effect, establish its own foundation program and be assured of receiving funds from the state for the state's proportionate share for any level program above the mandated minimum.

The 1960 legislation included the following features: (1) a guaranteed minimum of 25 per cent of the full cost of education for all communities; (2) an equalization feature; (3) a simplified school aid formula; (4) an incentive to encourage small school districts to centralize; and (5) a sharing of capital costs in the same proportion as operational costs.[2]

Rhode Island's open-ended school finance formula has been characterized as a model for the states of the Northeast.[3] In 1962, New York passed a variant of the formula, and other states in the area may be expected to do the same in the years ahead.[4]

---

[1] E. Gil Boyer, Financing Tomorrow's Schools Today, The Story of Rhode Island's School Finance Program (Providence, R. I.: Oxford Press, Inc., 1961), p. 21.

[2] Ibid., p. 22-23, 26.

[3] Stephen K. Bailey et al., Schoolmen and Politics, (Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1962), p. 21.

[4] Ibid.

CHAPTER II

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

A knowledge of the changing characteristics of the people of Rhode Island is essential to a clear understanding of past developments and probable future trends. In this chapter, changes in such characteristics as place of birth of inhabitants, age distribution of the population, educational attainment, population mobility, and family income are examined in some detail.

Foreign Born

During the 18th Century, limited numbers of Huguenots, Portuguese, Jews and Scots joined the original English colonists in Rhode Island. To these were added the Negroes and the remains of the native Indian population. Irish immigration commencing in the 1830's and 1840's reached its peak before 1860. After the Civil War, the French-Canadians immigrated from Canada in large numbers and this movement reached its peak about 1890. They were followed by a great migration from Italy and, to a lesser extent, from Eastern Europe and Portugal. By 1910 the foreign-born constituted 33 per cent of Rhode Island's total population.

The establishment of immigration quotas after World War I resulted in a decline both in the number and the proportion of the population who were foreign born. Between 1910 and 1960, the

number of foreign born persons in Rhode Island's population declined from 178,000 in 1910 to 86,000 in 1960. This latter figure represented approximately 10 per cent of the population of the state. However, the proportion of foreign born in Rhode Island's population in 1960 was about twice that of the United States as a whole.

Four out of ten inhabitants of Rhode Island were either foreign-born or of foreign or mixed parentage in 1960. Among the foreign stock 23 per cent were Italian, 23 per cent Canadian, 14 per cent United Kingdom, 8 per cent Irish, 8 per cent Portuguese, 4 per cent Polish and 4 per cent Russian, with most of the Poles and Russians being Jewish.

The foreign-born were concentrated in the cities of Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Woonsocket and the towns of Westerly, Bristol, North Providence, Lincoln and Cumberland, all of which contained more than 10 per cent foreign-born in their population.

The various ethnic groups were concentrated in certain communities. In North Providence, Johnston and Westerly between 20 and 25 per cent of the population belonged to the Italian ethnic group. Canadians constituted 35 per cent of the population of Woonsocket, and between 20 and 30 per cent of the population of Burrillville, North Smithfield, Lincoln and Central Falls. In Newport, West Greenwich and Providence, the Irish exceeded 5 per cent of

the population. In Providence, where 17 per cent of the population was of Italian stock, the Italian population within individual census tracts varied from less than 1 per cent to a high of over 50 per cent.

Because the Irish were an early immigrant group, they were no longer identifiable among the foreign stock to any large extent.

The Non-whites

Because of the large Negro slave trade which flourished in colonial Rhode Island, the proportion of Negroes in the population was higher than in the rest of New England throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. It reached its peak during the first half of the 18th century when Negroes made up about one-tenth of the colony's total population. By the end of the colonial period, the immigration of Negroes had practically ceased and the state's Negro population remained relatively static for a number of years. Although the non-white population of the state has increased in the years since the Civil War, Rhode Island generally has not been as attractive to southern Negro migrants as other northern industrial centers because of the lack of employment opportunities for unskilled labor and the presence locally of a large working-class population.

The non-white segment of Rhode Island's population reached a low point in 1930 when it totaled only 1.5 per cent of the population. Between 1930 and 1960, the proportion of non-whites in the state's

population increased slowly to 2.4 per cent. The 1960 census figure includes 18,332 Negroes, 932 American Indians and over 1,100 Asiatics.

In 1960, sixty per cent of all non-whites in the state lived in Providence, where they constituted almost 6 per cent of the resident population. Newport, Charlestown, South Kingstown and Narragansett also had some non-white residents, as did East Providence, Pawtucket, and Middletown.

The Native Born

Since at least the turn of the century, between 20 and 27 per cent of Rhode Island's American-born population were born in other states. In 1960, 72 per cent of the native population were born in Rhode Island, 23 per cent had come from some other state of the Union. Almost 5 per cent of the population enumerated did not indicate the location of their birth.

The natives of the other New England states furnished the majority of the in-migrants. Since 1870, however, this proportion has declined from about 80 per cent to a little over 50 per cent.

Age Distribution of the Population

The population of Rhode Island is apparently growing older at a faster rate than is the population of the United States. This seems to be borne out by several figures. For example, while the

proportion of persons 65 years of age and older in the United States population increased from 8.2 to 9.2 per cent between 1950 and 1960, the proportion of these older persons in the Rhode Island population increased from 8.9 to 10.4 per cent. At the same time that the proportion of older persons in the population was increasing, the proportion of young children in the population was also increasing and the proportion of persons in the employable ages of 20-59 was declining.

Table 1 shows the age distribution and the median age of the population of the United States and Rhode Island for the year 1960.

Since the mortality rate for males is higher than that for females at all ages, the median age for females in Rhode Island was above the 31.9 figure shown in Table 1. In 1960, the median age for females in the state was 33.6 years, and the median age for males was 30.0. At the higher age levels, 65 and over, 64 per cent of the population in the age group was female and only 36 per cent was male.

The industrial cities of the state and many of the mill towns had relatively old populations, with the aged constituting between 10 and 13 per cent of the population. In the same range were also such rural towns as Foster, Glocester and Charlestown, which had not yet experienced the phenomenon of suburbanization. Many of

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE
UNITED STATES AND RHODE ISLAND BY AGE GROUPS
1960

Age Group	United States Per Cent	Rhode Island Per Cent
Under 5 years	11.2	10.3
5-9	10.3	9.3
10-14	9.4	8.6
15-19	7.4	7.4
20-24	6.0	6.3
25-29	6.1	5.5
30-34	6.7	6.7
35-39	7.0	7.3
40-44	6.5	6.7
45-49	6.1	6.3
50-54	5.4	5.6
55-59	4.7	5.1
60-64	4.0	4.5
65-69	3.5	3.9
70-74	2.6	3.0
-75 years and over	3.1	3.5
Total Per Cent	100.0	100.0
Median Age	29.5 years	31.9 years

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

the communities that had a high proportion of older persons also had a higher-than-average percentage of their population in the 45-64 age range. This would seem to indicate that the trend toward agedness in these communities would continue.

In most of the cities and towns of the state, little variation existed in the proportion of the population in the prime age groups from 25-44 years. In most of the communities, between 24 and 29 per cent of the local population were in that age group.

Distribution of the Population by Sex

Until 1940, males outnumbered females in the population of the United States. However, during the past twenty years this ratio has shifted and females now outnumber males. Furthermore, the differential is still increasing.

Rhode Island has long had a surplus of females. In 1890, when the national ratio was 105 males to 100 females, the ratio in Rhode Island was 95 males to 100 females. By 1960, this difference had narrowed although the state's ratio of 94 males to 100 females was still below the national ratio of 97 males to 100 females.

There was also considerable difference in the ratio of males to females in the industrial cities and suburban areas. In the industrial centers which had an older population but offered substantial employment opportunities to women, the ratio was approximately 90 males to 100 females. The suburban areas, by contrast, approached

a more balanced ratio, ranging between 93 and 97 men to 100 women. In those areas, there were, of course, higher concentrations of married couples and young children, both of which cause more normal ratios of males to females.

Educational Attainment

The level of educational attainment in both the United States and Rhode Island increased substantially between 1940 and 1960. For the country as a whole, the median number of school years completed by the population age 25 years and over rose from 8.6 years in 1940 to 10.6 in 1960. In Rhode Island, the increase was from 8.5 years in 1940 to 10.0 years in 1960. Massive out-migration probably accounted for the failure of Rhode Island to keep up with the national level, since people with higher levels of educational achievement tend to be more mobile.

Table 2 indicates the median number of school years completed by persons 25 years old and over for selected states in the Northeast Region, New England and the United States in 1960. It is obvious from the table that Rhode Island had the lowest level of educational attainment of any of the selected states and was below the level of New England and the nation as a whole.

The 1960 census reports show that Rhode Island was below the national averages at practically every level of education. For example, Rhode Island had proportionately fewer people who had

TABLE 2

MEDIAN NUMBER OF SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED
BY PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OLDER
IN SELECTED NORTHEASTERN STATES
1960

State	Median School Years Completed		
	Male	Female	Total
Massachusetts	11.3	11.8	11.6
Connecticut	10.8	11.3	11.0
Maine	10.5	11.5	11.0
New Hampshire	10.5	11.3	10.9
Vermont	10.0	11.6	10.9
New Jersey	10.6	10.7	10.7
New York	10.6	10.7	10.7
RHODE ISLAND	10.0	10.0	10.0
New England	10.9	11.5	11.2
United States	10.3	10.9	10.6

Source: 1960 Census Reports.

been graduated from high school than did the nation as a whole. In 1960, the 6.6 per cent of Rhode Island's population 25 years and over with four years and more of college compared unfavorably with the national average of 7.7 per cent. Rhode Island's 6.6 per cent with one to three years of college training contrasted strongly with the national average of 8.8 per cent. While only 21.8 per cent of Rhode Island's population completed four years of high school, 24.6 per cent of the national population achieved that level.

On the other hand, Rhode Island had a higher proportion of illiterates and persons with less than a high school education than did the nation as a whole. This may result partially from the older age of Rhode Island's population and the high percentage of foreign-born persons and from out-migration.

Among the industrial cities, Woonsocket and Central Falls with a high concentration of manual workers had a median educational level of 8.3 years. The median for Pawtucket, which had a somewhat higher proportion of white collar workers, was 9.3 years, and for Providence 9.8 years.

The suburbs rank significantly higher. Cranston's median educational level was 11.0 years; Warwick had a median educational level of 11.6 years and Barrington had a median level of 12.0 years.

Population Mobility Patterns

In 1960, more than half (55. 9 per cent) of Rhode Island's population five years old and over were living in the same house as in 1955. On a nationwide basis only 49. 9 per cent of the population were living in the same quarters in 1960 as in 1955. This seems to indicate that the mobility of Rhode Island's population is somewhat less than the national average.

In an analysis of mobility patterns, Goldstein and Mayer[1] reason that the difference between the Rhode Island and the national percentages resulted from two related circumstances. In the first place, the state is located in one of the oldest and most settled parts of the country. Secondly, because of its early social and economic maturation, Rhode Island has for the past 30 years experienced out-migration.

Although almost 56 per cent of the population of Rhode Island were in the same residence in 1960 as they were in 1955, it may be more significant that forty-four of every 100 persons in the state did change their residence during the five-year period, and probably many of these persons made more than one move.

The data suggest that as the older cities lost population, the people who continued to live there tended to redistribute themselves by moving into available vacant dwellings in the higher status sections.

---

[1]Sidney Goldstein and Kurt B. Mayer, Residential Mobility, Migration, and Commuting in Rhode Island, (Providence: Rhode Island Development Council, 1963), p. 8.

Many of these were people who probably could not affort to move to the suburbs and who became mobile only because out-migration created vacancies which they could afford. If such vacancies had not occurred, these persons probably would not have moved. Hence, the proportion of non-movers probably would have been higher than the 56 per cent reported in the 1960 census reports.

The suburbs had a similar proportion of mobile persons. In Warwick and Cranston, about one-third of the movers had resided in Providence or Pawtucket in 1955, and one-half had lived in the balance of the metropolitan area. There was also residential movement within the suburban areas themselves.

Migration is seldom a one-way street, there was also some movement from the suburbs to the central cities. Eighteen per cent of the persons living in Providence and Pawtucket in 1960 had resided elsewhere in the metropolitan area in 1955. Although this proportion is smaller than the percentage of urban dwellers who moved out to Warwick and Cranston during the five year period, it did represent approximately 12,000 people who moved into the more densely populated urban areas.

Migration statistics indicate that 8.8 per cent of the state's 1960 population moved into Rhode Island since 1955. However, as a sizeable proportion of these in-migrants were students and military personnel, a more realistic figure would probably be about

5 per cent. As one might have expected, the in-migrants generally settled in the suburban areas.

Since mobility data refer to current residents of the state, those who left Rhode Island between 1955 and 1960 appear as migrants in the data of the states to which they moved.

Sex, Age and Mobility

A comparison of the mobility patterns of the male population and the female population showed little difference. The only significant difference was that 11 per cent of the males and 7 per cent of the females in-migrated from other states. This difference may be attributed entirely to the large numbers of military personnel and students. Whatever sharp differences existed among the various towns can probably be attributed to this factor. The absence of sex selectivity in mobility patterns probably reflects the highly urban and economically mature character of the state. Since Rhode Island is a state with a negative migration balance, its economic opportunities do not attract large numbers of migrants. Those who entered the state during the past several years come primarily from nearby states. Most of the movement within the state probably was a result of housing considerations rather than a response to job opportunities. Because of the highly urban character and the small size of the state, most of the intra-state movement that took place very likely consisted of family units rather than individuals, and was not, therefore, sex-selective.

The proportion of non-movers was high among children 5-14 years of age, 54 per cent for both sexes. In the 15-24 age group,when persons were both entering the labor force and establishing new families and households, the proportion of non-movers declined to 43 per cent for females and 39 per cent for males. Residential stability increased somewhat in the 25-44 age group, the proportion of non-movers increased to 49 per cent for females and 43 per cent for males. This, of course, is the period when people begin to settle in their occupational careers and raise families. In the middle-age group of 45-64, mobility was sharply reduced as 71 per cent of both sexes remained in the same house in 1960 as in 1955. Among the 65 and over age group, the proportion of non-movers rose slightly to 72-73 per cent.

Education and Mobility

Persons with higher education are generally better informed about cultural and economic opportunities and are more willing to go elsewhere to take advantage of them. Hence, better educated persons tend to be more mobile. The proportion of non-movers in the state's population 25 years old and over declined from 66 per cent of those persons with less than a high school education to 53 per cent of those with one or more years of college. In addition, the percentage of persons moving into the state was directly related to the amount of schooling they have had, increasing from 2 per cent

in the lowest educational groups to 15 per cent of those in the highest.

Within both the central cities and suburban communities, the census tracts which ranked highest in socio-economic status tended to attract higher proportions of the more educated, mobile population both from within and from without the state. The attractiveness of the higher ranking tracts within the central cities, however, was not sufficient to override the appeal of the more favored suburban communities.

Occupation and Mobility

For purposes of an analysis of occupational status and mobility, the traditional census groupings for occupations were condensed into three major categories: (1) professionals, managers, and proprietors, (2) clerical and sales workers, and (3) manual workers. Since the census data referred only to the civilian labor force, it is not affected by the concentration of military personnel or students in the state.

For the state as a whole, there is little difference between the proportion of movers and non-movers in all three occupational groups. The percentage of non-movers among the three occupational categories varied between the narrow range of 58 and 60 per cent. Similarly, the percentage of movers constituted between 40 and 42 per cent of the three groups.

Income and Mobility

Income, occupation, and education are all closely related. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the patterns of mobility by income level closely paralleled those already described for education and occupation, both on the state and on the community level.

For the four income groups into which the population 14 years old and over was divided, the statewide percentage of non-movers decreased from a high of 60 per cent of those with incomes of $10,000 and over to 55 per cent of those with some income under $3,000.

Income of Rhode Island Families

Family income data was collected by the United States Bureau of the Census in 1949 and 1959. The median family income in Rhode Island in 1949 was slightly higher than the national median. In 1959, however, median family income in Rhode Island had dropped slightly below the national median. Median family income in the United States rose from $3,083 in 1949 to $5,657 in 1959, while in Rhode Island median family income increased from $3,136 to $5,589 during the same period.

The percentage distribution of family income in the United States and Rhode Island for the years 1949 and 1959 is shown on Table 3.

TABLE 3

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES AND RHODE ISLAND 1949-1959

Total Money Income	1949		1959	
	United States	Rhode Island	United States	Rhode Island
Under$1,000	14.7	10.9	5.6	3.9
$1,000-1,999	14.6	12.8	7.5	5.6
2,000-2,999	19.2	23.4	8.3	7.2
3,000-3,999	19.3	20.9	9.5	11.0
4,000-4,999	12.1	13.3	11.0	13.3
5,000-5,999	7.8	8.1	12.3	15.1
6,000-6999	4.3	4.0	10.7	12.0
7,000-9,999	4.9	4.1	20.1	20.2
10,000- and over	3.1	2.5	15.0	11.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median Income	$3,083	$3,136	$5,657	$5,589

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Despite the similarity in median income, the incomes of Rhode Island families were more concentrated in the middle ranges than were incomes nationally. In 1959, 51 per cent of Rhode Island families had incomes between $3,000 and $7,000. There were proportionately fewer Rhode Island families than United States families in the highest and lowest income categories. This probably was a reflection of the high concentration of local population in industrial employment.

In 1949, almost half of Rhode Island's families had incomes under $3,000 and less than 3 per cent had incomes of $10,000 and over. By 1959, the proportion of families having incomes under $3,000 was reduced to less than 17 per cent, while the proportion with incomes of $10,000 and over rose to nearly 12 per cent.

Since employment represents the main source of income for most families, it would not be surprising to find that variations in family income among communities relate to the composition of the labor force in those communities. In industrial communities where most of the employment is in the manual labor categories, the income distribution would be weighted in the lower income brackets. By contrast, a suburban community with a large proportion of workers in white collar, professional and managerial occupations would find itself in the upper ranges of the income distribution. Table 4 compares the median family income of selected Rhode Island industrial and suburban cities for 1949 and 1959.

TABLE 4

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN SELECTED RHODE ISLAND CITIES 1949-1959

Industrial Cities	1949 Median Income	1959 Median Income	Percentage Change
Central Falls	$2,860	$4,874	+70.4
Pawtucket	3,296	5,525	+67.6
Providence	2,950	5,069	+71.8
Woonsocket	3,051	5,186	+70.0
Suburban Cities			
Cranston	3,610	6,338	+75.6
Warwick	3,463	6,390	+84.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

In 1959, between 20 and 22 per cent of the families in Central Falls, Woonsocket and Providence, had incomes of less than $3,000. In contrast, only 11 per cent of Warwick and Cranston families and only 8 per cent of Barrington families fell into the same low income group. The highest concentration of low income families was found in New Shoreham where one-third of the families had incomes of less than $3,000, probably because of the large proportion of older people on the island.

In Barrington, almost one-third of the families had incomes of $10,000 or more. The proportion was 15 per cent for Cranston, Warwick, East Greenwich and Westerly. In the industrial cities, only 5 per cent of the families in Central Falls had incomes of $10,000 or more. In Woonsocket the proportion was 7 per cent and in Providence, 10 per cent.

CHAPTER III

THE LABOR FORCE

By definition, the labor force includes all persons either employed or unemployed but looking for work, as well as members of the armed forces.

Percentage of the Population in the Labor Force, 1940-1960

Rhode Island's male labor force has closely followed the pattern in the country as a whole. For the United States, the per cent of males 14 years old and over in the labor force has decreased slightly from 79.0 in 1940 to 77.4 in 1960. For Rhode Island, the comparable percentages were 79.9 in 1940 and 78.4 in 1960. Earlier retirement for older workers taking advantage of social security probably accounts for the slight decline in both the national and state figures.

In the 65 and over age group, the percentage in the U.S. labor force declined from 41.5 in 1940 to 30.5 in 1960. In Rhode Island, the corresponding proportions were 39.9 and 28.0. One would expect such a sharp decline to have a more substantial effect on the overall rates of labor force participation. However, the sharp increase in the participation of the 14-17 year age group has offset the reduction in the oldest age group. During World War II, youths in the 14-17 age group took jobs in large numbers to help the war effort. This pattern has been maintained ever since, although it now

involves part-time employment of youths still enrolled in school.

Between 1940 and 1960 there was little change in the labor force participation of males 18-64 in Rhode Island and in the nation as a whole. Participation rose with each age group, reached a peak of about 95-96 per cent between ages 25-44, after which it declined to slightly less than 90 per cent in the 45-64 year age group.

The participation of females in Rhode Island's labor force differed considerably from that of the nation as a whole. In 1940, only 25.4 per cent of the U.S. females 14 years and over were in the labor force, whereas in Rhode Island the percentage was 34.7. This was probably due to the greater availability of jobs in Rhode Island's textile and jewelry industries. During the 1940-50 decade, female participation in the national labor force increased to 29.0 per cent as a result of the war effort, while Rhode Island maintained approximately the same level as in 1940, due to the loss in employment caused by the declining textile industry. In 1960, with the continuing decline, 37.6 per cent of Rhode Island females were in the labor force compared to the 34.5 per cent of females in the nation.

Table 5 shows the per cent of population in the labor force by age and sex for the United States and Rhode Island for the federal census years of 1940, 1950 and 1960.

In the following section, an analysis will be made of the labor force and employment patterns in Rhode Island for the post-World War II period through 1964.

TABLE 5

PER CENT OF THE POPULATION IN THE LABOR FORCE BY AGE AND SEX, UNITED STATES AND RHODE ISLAND 1940-1960

Sex & Age Group	United States			Rhode Island		
	1960	1950	1940	1960	1950	1940
Males						
14-17	26.5	25.5	18.6	27.9	18.6	18.7
18-24	80.1	77.8	81.2	83.4	76.1	85.4
25-34	94.9	92.1	95.2	95.8	91.6	96.2
35-44	95.6	94.5	94.7	96.4	94.3	95.8
45-64	89.0	88.2	88.7	89.5	87.7	88.7
65 years and over	30.5	41.5	41.5	28.0	37.9	39.9
Total	77.4	78.9	79.0	78.4	77.9	79.9
Females						
14-17	14.0	11.4	7.7	18.3	15.0	15.4
18-24	45.3	43.3	43.6	50.8	57.9	66.7
25-34	35.3	31.8	32.9	37.4	38.9	46.5
35-44	42.7	35.0	26.9	47.1	40.0	35.1
45-64	41.6	28.8	19.8	46.1	32.2	24.0
65 years and over	10.3	7.8	5.9	9.6	8.6	6.8
Total	34.5	29.0	25.4	37.6	34.5	34.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Employment Patterns 1947-1964

During the period 1947 to 1964, the total labor force in Rhode Island remained practically constant--359,900 persons in 1947 and 359,000 persons in 1964. However, the distribution of workers within the total employment framework changed considerably during that period.

Workers employed in manufacturing industries declined from 154,700 in 1947 to 115,200 in 1964, a decrease of 39,500 workers or nearly 26 per cent. This data is significant when compared to the trend in manufacturing employment in the United States and in Rhode Island's neighboring states, as shown in Table 6. In the United States as a whole, manufacturing employment increased by 10 per cent for the 1947-1964 period. It remained constant in Connecticut, fell slightly in New York and dropped 11 per cent in Massachusetts.

By contrast, the employment of workers in non-manufacturing occupations in Rhode Island increased from 142,200 in 1947 to 187,000 in 1964, a growth of some 45,000, or over 31 per cent.

Table 7 shows the number of workers employed in the major manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries in Rhode Island during the period 1947-1964.

The number of workers employed in manufacturing in Rhode Island has been generally declining over the years. There have been a few slight upturns and a flattening of the employment curve since the late 1950's.

TABLE 6

CHANGES IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, RHODE ISLAND AND NEIGHBORING STATES 1947-1964
(In Thousands)

Year	United States	Rhode Island	Massa-chusetts	Connec-ticut	New York
1947	15,545	154.7	730.7	418.6	1,994.3
1948	15,582	153.6	732.6	408.1	1,976.5
1949	14,441	135.3	685.0	354.2	1,853.2
1950	15,241	148.0	715.7	379.9	1,915.8
1951	16,393	150.9	746.9	426.7	2,006.5
1952	16,632	146.1	732.9	436.8	2,045.2
1953	17,549	146.3	752.2	461.5	2,118.9
1954	16,314	130.0	692.2	425.0	2,005.9
1955	16,882	131.7	700.7	423.2	2,006.8
1956	17,243	129.3	719.1	439.4	2,042.5
1957	17,174	121.2	706.4	432.7	2,025.1
1958	15,945	113.2	665.7	389.2	1,871.2
1959	16,675	119.8	698.1	406.6	1,897.4
1960	16,796	119.7	698.0	407.2	1,883.4
1961	16,326	116.8	684.9	403.6	1,828.2
1962	16,853	118.9	687.6	418.3	1,842.9
1963	17,005	115.7	664.9	421.9	1,809.7
1964*	17,302	115.2	647.9	418.8	1,807.3
Percent Change: 1947-64	+10%	-26%	-11%	0%	-1%

*11 months average.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor-Manpower Report of the President, March 1965 and U.S. Department of Labor - Employment and Earnings, February 1965.

TABLE 7

EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING AND NON-MANUFACTURING
IN RHODE ISLAND
1947-1964
(In Thousands)

	1947	1950	1955	1960	1964
Manufacturing	154.7	148.0	131.7	119.7	115.2
Textiles	66.7	62.7	40.1	28.1	23.3
Metals & Machinery	36.7	31.6	32.7	32.7	33.5
Jewelry/Silverware	18.6	19.9	22.6	19.0	16.6
Rubber/Misc. Plastics	7.4	7.3	7.6	8.3	8.5
Apparel	2.6	3.2	4.1	4.0	3.8
Non-Manufacturing	142.2	149.4	161.6	172.0	187.0
Trade	48.3	51.7	53.6	53.5	56.3
Construction	10.6	11.6	12.8	11.9	14.2
Service	28.3	28.3	31.9	39.3	45.6
Total Labor Force	359.9	369.2	360.4	353.2	359.0
Unemployment (Percent)	7.8	9.1	7.8	6.7	6.4

Source: Rhode Island Department of Employment Security

Employment in the textile field has shown a steady downward trend. During the 1947-1964 period, over 43,400 fewer persons were employed in that field alone. The decline represented a loss of 65 per cent of the jobs in the textile industry.

The metals and machinery industry in Rhode Island has shown an irregular pattern over the years. There was a sharp dip in 1949, followed by a rise in the early 1950's and then another drop in the mid-1950's. Since that time employment in the industry has been relatively stationary, with some variation in the late 1950's and early 1960's. However, over the period 1947-1964, 3,200 or almost 9 per cent of the jobs in the industry were lost.

Employment in the jewelry and silverware manufacturing industry increased from 18,600 in 1947 to 23,600 in 1954. Since that year, there has been a generally steady decline to 16,600 jobs in 1964. The decline in this industry represented a job loss of almost 11 per cent.

In the fields of rubber and plastics and in the apparel industry, there have been relatively little change in the actual number of workers employed over the years. The percentage change in the apparel field, however, showed considerable growth between 1947 and 1955, but since then has remained relatively stable.

In the non-manufacturing industries, employment in the field of trade fluctuated somewhat during the 1947 to 1964 period,

with some growth in the early 1950's, and a relatively stable level of employment during the late 1950's and early 1960's. Between 1947 and 1964, employment in this field increased by 8,000 jobs or 17 per cent.

Since 1961, there has been little fluctuation in the construction industry. For the 1947-1964 period, employment increased by 3,600 workers, or 34 per cent.

The service occupations, on the other hand, have shown a rather consistent and steady growth since 1947. Jobs in this area have increased much more rapidly than in any of the non-manufacturing occupations. During the period 1947-1964, 17,300 new jobs were added in the industry, for an increase of 61 per cent. Employment in this field appears to be still continuing the rapid growth of the 1947-1964 period.

Table 8 summarizes the employment trends in Rhode Island by showing the net changes in employment by major industries in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing for the period 1947-1964.

Distribution of Employed Persons by Occupational Groups, 1940-1960

Major shifts took place in the occupational composition of the labor force in the United States between 1940 and 1960. The effect of an expanding technology on the economy has resulted in a greater need for professional and technical manpower as well as skilled manual labor. In contrast, the proportion of farmers and unskilled laborers has decreased drastically.

TABLE 8

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN RHODE ISLAND
1947-1964

Industry	Employment 1947	Employment 1964	Net Change Number	Net Change Per Cent
Manufacturing	154,700	115,200	-39,500	-25.5
Textiles	66,700	23,300	-43,400	-65.1
Metals and Machinery	36,700	33,500	- 3,200	- 8.7
Jewelry-Silverware	18,600	16,600	- 2,000	-10.8
Rubber-Plastics	7,400	8,500	+ 1,100	+14.9
Apparel	2,600	3,800	+ 1,200	+46.2
Non-Manufacturing	142,200	187,000	+44,800	+31.5
Trade	48,300	56,300	+ 8,000	+16.6
Construction	10,600	14,200	+ 3,600	+34.0
Service Occupations	28,300	45,600	+17,300	+61.1
Total Labor Force	359,900	359,000	- 900	- 0.3

The high degree of industrialization of Rhode Island may be shown by a comparison of the distribution of the state's occupational groups with the distributions in the United States. Table 9 shows the percentage distribution by occupational groups of employed persons by sex for the United States and Rhode Island, for 1940 and 1960.

In 1940, almost one-quarter of the male labor force of the nation was still making their living from farming, while in Rhode Island the proportion was but 2.7 per cent. By 1960, only 8 per cent of the country's labor force was still engaged in agriculture compared with one per cent in Rhode Island. Agriculture was not a major source of employment for women during this two decade period either in the United States or in Rhode Island.

White collar employment in the nation increased from 28 per cent of the males in 1940 to 35 per cent in 1960; female white collar employment rose from 44 per cent to 53 per cent during this period. In Rhode Island, 31 per cent of the males were in white collar occupations in 1940 and 34 per cent in 1960. This increase, however, was less than for the nation as a whole. In contrast, fewer Rhode Island females were in white collar jobs in 1940 than the United States as a whole. The proportion rose from 37 per cent in 1940 to 46 per cent in 1960, still well below the national level. The largest increases in Rhode Island in the white collar occupations

TABLE 9

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION GROUPS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX
IN THE UNITED STATES AND RHODE ISLAND
1940-1960

	Males				Females			
	United States		Rhode Island		United States		Rhode Island	
Occupation Group	1960	1940	1960	1940	1960	1940	1960	1940
Professional	10.3	6.1	9.2	6.3	13.0	13.4	11.0	10.2
Farmers & Farm Mgr.	5.5	14.7	0.5	1.1	0.6	1.4	....	0.1
Managers	10.7	9.6	10.1	10.4	3.7	3.5	2.4	2.2
Clerical Workers	6.9	6.0	7.6	6.5	29.7	21.1	26.0	19.0
Sales Workers	6.9	6.7	7.0	7.8	7.8	7.3	6.2	6.0
Craftsmen	19.5	14.9	22.3	21.0	1.2	1.1	2.1	1.9
Operatives	19.8	17.9	24.0	29.7	15.4	18.1	31.7	43.1
Private Household	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	7.9	17.7	3.4	9.0
Service Workers	6.0	5.8	7.0	7.1	13.4	11.0	9.5	6.7
Farm Laborers	2.8	8.3	0.6	1.4	1.1	2.9	0.1	0.1
Laborers	6.9	9.0	5.3	7.9	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.7
Occupation Not Reported	4.6	0.7	6.3	0.6	5.7	1.5	6.9	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

were in the professional group for males and in ther clerical group for females, this was consistent with national trends.

Rhode Island's labor force was heavily concentrated in manual work in 1940, with almost 60 per cent of the males engaged in skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor occupations, compared to only 42 per cent in the nation. For females, the contrast was greater with 46 per cent of the state's females engaged in manual work, while only 20 per cent of United States females were so occupied. In 1960, 52 per cent of Rhode Island men and 46 per cent of all men in the United States were in the labor occupations. Rhode Island's percentage reduction in this area can be attributed to a decline in the state's manufacturing industries. The proportion of women in manual work in 1960 declined to 35 per cent in Rhode Island and 17 per cent in the nation.

In the manual labor categories, craftsmen and operative groups have increased nationally for males while the unskilled laborer group has declined. In Rhode Island, the unskilled labor category has also declined and the craftsmen group has increased slightly, but the proportion of men in the operative category declined from 30 to 24 per cent. Both in the nation and in Rhode Island, the greater proportion of female manual workers are concentrated in the semi-skilled operative group, which in both cases has declined. The decrease, however, has been much greater for Rhode Island

women than for the nation, principally because of the drastic decline of the textile industry in the state.

The service occupations between 1940 and 1960 increased sharply for females in the nation and in the state. However, during this period, there was little variation in the proportion of men employed in these occupations, either nationally or in Rhode Island.

CHAPTER IV

POPULATION TRENDS IN RHODE ISLAND

Population growth in Rhode Island can be classified into four distinct periods. During the pre-revolutionary period, there was a rapid increase in population. This was followed by a period of stagnation and slow growth from the revolutionary war until about 1840. For the next seventy years, a great rise in employment opportunities in manufacturing led to a rapid population increase. The coming of World War I, however, marked the end of this growth period. During the last half century, the decline in manufacturing activity, especially in textiles, reduced the rate of Rhode Island's population growth well below the national average. Since 1930, the state has been experiencing an accelerating rate of out-migration and only the excess of births over deaths has provided population growth during this period.

Table 10 details the population of Rhode Island, New England and the United States for each federal census year from 1900 to 1960 and shows the percentage increase in population over the preceding census. At the time of the 1960 census, Rhode Island's population totalled 859,488 persons. At that same time, the populations of New England and the United States were enumerated at 10.5 and almost 179.3 million respectively. Since the census of 1900, Rhode Island's population has doubled, New England's has increased

TABLE 10

POPULATION OF RHODE ISLAND, NEW ENGLAND
AND THE UNITED STATES
1900-1960

Year	Rhode Island	New England	United States
1900	428, 556	5, 592, 017	76, 212, 168
1910	542, 610	6, 652, 681	92, 228, 496
1920	604, 397	7, 400, 909	106, 021, 537
1930	687, 497	8, 166, 341	123, 202, 624
1940	713, 346	8, 437, 290	132, 164, 569
1950	791, 896	9, 314, 453	151, 325, 798
1960	859, 488	10, 509, 367	179, 323, 175
Percentage Increase Over Preceding Census			
1910	26. 6	19. 0	21. 0
1920	11. 4	11. 2	15. 1
1930	13. 7	10. 3	16. 2
1940	3. 8	3. 3	7. 3
1950	11. 0	10. 4	14. 5
1960	8. 5	12. 8	18. 5

Source; U. S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P. 25, No. 229.

slightly less and the population of the United States has multiplied almost two and one-half times.

Population Estimates, 1950-1964

A better insight into recent population growth might be obtained by examining the figures derived by the Census Bureau for the years between the actual enumeration years. Table 11 shows the population estimates made by the Census Bureau for the United States, New England and selected states of the Northeast Region for the period 1950 to 1964. It may be noted that during this period, the population of the United States increased 26 per cent while that of New England increased but 19 per cent. Among the four states shown, Connecticut and New York lead the others with population increases of 38 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. Rhode Island increased its population 15 per cent during this period and Masschusetts trailed with a 14 per cent population increase for the 1950 to 1964 period.

Urbanization in Rhode Island

Since the first census taken in the United States in 1790, Rhode Island has been in the forefront of the urbanization trend. It led the way in urban concentration and for many decades was the nation's most urbanized state. The proportion of the state's population living in urban places in 1960 was 86.4 per cent. This figure is exceeded only by New Jersey with 88.6 per cent and equaled by California.

TABLE 11

POPULATION ESTIMATES BY YEARS OF THE UNITED STATES, NEW ENGLAND, AND SELECTED STATES OF THE NORTHEAST REGION
1950-1964
(In Thousands)

Year	United States	New England	Massa-chusetts	Connec-ticut	New York	Rhode Island
1950	151,326	9,314	4,691	2,007	14,830	792
1951	154,060	9,220	4,611	2,012	15,067	777
1952	156,472	9,289	4,622	2,051	15,237	797
1953	159,035	9,549	4,770	2,132	15,495	814
1954	161,915	9,727	4,857	2,208	15,818	817
1955	165,064	9,729	4,823	2,232	16,081	825
1956	168,043	9,777	4,811	2,247	16,128	834
1957	171,108	9,920	4,872	2,298	16,203	854
1958	174,057	10,139	4,967	2,402	16,403	860
1959	177,131	10,378	5,083	2,495	16,619	854
1960	179,323	10,509	5,149	2,535	16,782	859
1961	183,057	10,649	5,204	2,581	17,156	864
1962	185,890	10,766	5,232	2,639	17,464	883
1963	188,616	10,939	5,296	2,715	17,696	892
1964	191,334	11,070	5,338	2,766	17,915	914

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P. 25, No. 229 and 289.

Of the state's 39 towns, 17 had a majority of their population classified as rural in 1960, and seven additional communities had between 30 and 50 per cent rural population. It should be pointed out, however, that less than one per cent of the state's rural population were engaged in farming. Only in the towns of Foster and Little Compton did the farm population reach 10 per cent of the total. However, even towns predominently rural in character contained census tracts that were classified as urban by census definitions.

Table 12 shows the land areas and population densities of each of the cities and towns of Rhode Island. It is interesting to note that the four urban manufacturing cities of Providence, Central Fallls, Pawtucket and Woonsocket contained 60 per cent of the state's population in 1900 and by 1960 this proportion had dropped to 41 per cent. In the decade 1950-1960 each of these four urban centers suffered a numerical loss in population.

Changes in the population of Rhode Island's cities and towns for the period 1950 to 1960 are shown in Table 13.

A further examination of this table indicates that four other cities of the state experienced population increases during the period 1950-1960. Suburban Warwick had a gain of 59. 2 per cent, Cranston 21. 3 per cent and East Providence 17. 0 per cent. The City of Newport, which is greatly affected by military operations, increased 25. 3 per cent.

TABLE 12

LAND AREA POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY OF CITIES AND TOWNS OF RHODE ISLAND 1960

Communities	Land Area (Square Miles)	1960 Population	Population Density Per Square Mile 1960 Census
Barrington	8.4	13,826	1,646
Bristol	9.7	14,570	1,502
Burrillville	55.6	9,119	164
Central Falls	1.2	19,858	16,548
Charlestown	37.0	1,966	53
Coventry	60.6	15,432	255
Cranston	28.7	66,766	2,326
Cumberland	27.0	18,792	696
East Greenwich	15.9	6,100	384
East Providence	13.9	41,955	3,018
Exeter	58.5	2,298	39
Foster	51.1	2,097	41
Glocester	53.7	3,397	63
Hopkinton	42.1	4,174	99
Jamestown	9.5	2,267	239
Johnston	25.1	17,160	684
Lincoln	19.3	13,551	702
Little Compton	21.4	1,702	80
Middletown	14.6	12,675	868
Narragansett	13.8	3,444	250
Newport	7.0	47,049	6,721
New Shoreham	9.3	486	52
North Kingstown	43.1	18,977	440
North Providence	5.9	18,220	3,088
North Smithfield	24.5	7,632	312
Pawtucket	8.6	81,001	9,419
Portsmouth	23.5	8,251	351
Providence	17.9	207,498	11,592
Richmond	41.4	1,986	48
Scituate	54.1	5,210	96
Smithfield	26.6	9,442	355
South Kingstown	57.4	11,942	208
Tiverton	29.6	9,461	320
Warren	6.4	8,750	1,367
Warwick	38.0	68,504	1,803
Westerly	30.9	14,267	462
West Greenwich	51.3	1,169	23
West Warwick	6.5	21,414	3,294
Woonsocket	8.6	47,080	5,474
State Totals	1,057.7	859,488	813

Source: Rhode Island Development Council.

TABLE 13

POPULATION CHANGES IN RHODE ISLAND CITIES AND TOWNS
1950-1960

Communities	Population		Net Change	
	1950	1960	Number	Per Cent
Barrington	8,246	13,826	+5,580	+67.7
Bristol	12,320	14,570	+2,250	+18.3
Burrillville	8,774	9,119	+ 345	+ 3.9
Central Falls	23,550	19,858	-3,692	-15.7
Charlestown	1,598	1,966	+ 368	+23.0
Coventry	9,869	15,432	+5,563	+56.4
Cranston	55,060	66,766	+11,706	+21.3
Cumberland	12,842	18,792	+5,950	+46.3
East Greenwich	4,923	6,100	+1,177	+23.9
East Providence	35,871	41,955	+6,084	+17.0
Exeter	1,870	2,298	+ 428	+22.9
Foster	1,630	2,097	+ 467	+28.7
Glocester	2,682	3,397	+ 715	+26.7
Hopkinton	3,676	4,174	+ 498	+13.5
Jamestown	2,068	2,267	+ 199	+ 9.6
Johnston	12,725	17,160	+4,435	+34.9
Lincoln	11,270	13,551	+2,281	+20.2
Little Compton	1,556	1,702	+ 146	+ 9.4
Middletown	7,382	12,675	+5,293	+71.7
Narragansett	2,288	3,444	+1,156	+50.5
Newport	37,564	47,049	+9,485	+25.3
New Shoreham	732	486	- 246	-33.6
North Kingstown	14,810	18,977	+4,167	+28.1
North Providence	13,927	18,220	+4,293	+30.8
North Smithfield	5,726	7,632	+1,906	+33.3
Pawtucket	81,436	81,001	- 435	- 0.5
Portsmouth	6,578	8,251	+1,673	+25.4
Providence	248,674	207,498	-41,176	-16.6
Richmond	1,772	1,986	+ 214	+12.1
Scituate	3,905	5,210	+1,305	+33.4
Smithfield	6,690	9,442	+2,752	+41.1
South Kingstown	10,148	11,942	+1,794	+17.7
Tiverton	5,659	9,461	+3,802	+67.2
Warren	8,513	8,750	+ 237	+ 2.8
Warwick	43,028	68,504	+25,476	+59.2
Westerly	12,380	14,267	+1,887	+15.2
West Greenwich	847	1,169	+ 322	+38.0
West Warwick	19,096	21,414	+2,318	+12.1
Woonsocket	50,211	47,080	-3,131	- 6.2
State Totals	791,896	859,488	67,592	+ 8.5

Source: Rhode Island Development Council

During the 1950's, the suburban movement continued, and many of the smaller towns around the old urban centers experienced population increases. Barrington increased 67. 7 per cent; Cumberland increased 46. 3 per cent; and Johnston had a gain of 34. 9 per cent, to name a few.

Providence in Decline

The City of Providence dominates the center of the state and the metropolitan area. Its rise may be traced back to the American Revolution. When the city of Newport was devastated by the British, Providence, which never had been occupied, experienced a boom in shipbuilding and became a center of trade and commerce. The city developed as one of the young nation's manufacturing areas in the early nineteenth century. It was especially noted for its textiles and metals. With its economic expansion, Providence experienced tremendous growth in population, especially from in-migration.

Throughout the nineteenth and the beginning the twentieth century, Providence grew at a faster rate than the state as a whole and by 1910 accounted for 41. 3 per cent of the population of the state. After that date, however, Providence's growth rate fell off sharply while the remainder of the state expanded more rapidly. By the 1940-1950 decade, the city's population in absolute numbers began to decline, and by 1960, it contained only 24. 1 per cent of the state's population. During the decade 1950-1960, Providence lost 16. 6

per cent of its population while the remainder of the state gained 20.0 per cent.

Goldstein and Mayer[1] see two major reasons for the decline of Providence. The city was severely affected by the decline of the textile industry and the attendant loss of job opportunities. In addition, Providence's high population density and lack of space for residential development contributed to the suburban movement which has characterized the Providence Metropolitan Area. The population loss of Providence accounts for much of the gain experienced by the rest of the state as well as for part of the loss through net out-migration that the state as a whole has been experiencing.

Estimate of Future Population

In 1960, Rhode Island's population numbered 859,488. In its projection of the state's population, the Rhode Island Development Council envisages a 1970 population of 942,600, and expects that during the 1970-1980 decade, the population of the state will pass the one million mark. By 1980, Rhode Island's population is expected to number 1,040,000, and by 1985 it is expected to climb to 1,088,000 persons. The anticipated increase in population from 1960 to 1985 will represent a gain of 228,500 persons, or 26.6 per cent, as shown in Table 14.

---

[1]Sidney Goldstein and Kurt B. Mayer, Metropolitanization and Population Change in Rhode Island, (Providence, R.I.:Rhode Island Development Council, 1961), p. 34.

TABLE 14

POPULATION PROJECTION OF RHODE ISLAND CITIES AND TOWNS
TO 1985

Communities	Census 1960	Projected 1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	% Change 1960-1985
Barrington	13,826	16,800	19,400	21,500	23,150	24,150	+74.7
Bristol	14,570	15,500	16,940	18,580	20,310	21,980	+50.9
Burrillville	9,119	9,340	9,560	9,780	10,000	10,230	+12.2
Central Falls	19,858	18,960	18,370	18,000	17,870	17,800	-10.4
Charlestown	1,966	2,260	2,630	3,000	3,370	3,750	+90.7
Coventry	15,432	18,670	21,890	24,870	27,740	30,550	+98.0
Cranston	66,766	72,500	78,620	84,480	90,110	94,810	+42.0
Cumberland	18,792	22,120	25,900	29,870	34,400	38,800	+106.5
East Greenwich	6,100	7,050	8,400	10,050	12,000	14,000	+129.5
East Providence	41,955	45,390	49,070	52,890	56,720	60,470	+44.1
Exeter	2,298	2,600	2,930	3,280	3,640	4,000	+74.1
Foster	2,097	2,420	2,800	3,210	3,630	4,000	+90.7
Glocester	3,397	3,850	4,370	4,920	5,470	6,020	+77.2
Hopkinton	4,174	4,530	4,960	5,450	5,960	6,500	+55.7
Jamestown	2,267	2,420	2,600	2,800	3,010	3,230	+42.5
Johnston	17,160	19,300	21,600	23,800	26,000	28,200	+64.3
Lincoln	13,551	14,530	15,680	16,760	18,090	19,600	+44.6
Little Compton	1,702	1,800	1,920	2,050	2,180	2,310	+35.7
Middletown	12,675	15,180	18,200	21,450	24,470	27,370	+115.9
Narragansett	3,444	4,170	4,970	5,800	6,600	7,350	+113.4
Newport	47,049	47,450	48,200	49,080	50,170	51,000	+ 8.4
New Shoreham	486	440	410	390	380	380	-21.8
North Kingstown	18,977	21,380	23,830	26,130	28,260	30,200	+59.1
North Providence	18,220	20,240	22,140	23,920	25,650	27,250	+49.6
North Smithfield	7,632	8,790	10,070	11,500	12,800	14,000	+83.4
Pawtucket	81,001	79,880	78,700	77,970	77,650	77,500	- 4.3
Portsmouth	8,251	9,340	10,550	11,750	12,920	14,000	+69.7
Providence	207,498	193,800	185,650	180,300	177,800	176,800	-14.8
Richmond	1,986	2,150	2,320	2,520	2,720	2,900	+46.0
Scituate	5,210	6,050	7,000	8,000	9,020	10,000	+91.9
Smithfield	9,442	10,880	12,360	13,760	15,300	16,840	+78.4
South Kingstown	11,942	15,500	17,300	18,800	20,200	21,550	+80.5
Tiverton	9,461	11,570	13,780	15,830	17,600	19,080	+101.7
Warren	8,750	8,910	9,100	9,300	9,500	9,730	+11.2
Warwick	68,504	76,240	82,740	88,160	92,880	96,700	+41.2
Westerly	14,267	15,260	16,440	17,760	19,000	20,200	+41.6
West Greenwich	1,169	1,380	1,620	1,890	2,190	2,500	+113.9
West Warwick	21,414	22,450	23,530	24,550	25,590	26,600	+24.2
Woonsocket	47,080	46,400	46,050	45,850	45,750	45,650	- 3.0
State Totals	859,488	897,500	942,600	990,000	1,040,100	1,088,000	+26.6

Source: Rhode Island Development Council.

During this period, while the population of the state will be increasing, great variation is expected in certain segments of the state. The City of Providence, which reached a population peak of 235,500 in 1940, had already declined to 207,498 by 1960. It is expected that continued migration losses will reduce the number of Providence residents to 185,650 in 1970, and that by 1980 its population will be 177,800. If Providence's population continues to decline to 176,800 by 1985, it will have sustained a population loss of almost 15 per cent since 1960, and will be at the size it was at the turn of the century.

The other three industrial cities are also expected to suffer population loss, though not as severe as Providence. Central Falls, with a 1960 population enumerated at 19,858, is expected to decline to 17,800, for a loss of 10.4 per cent by 1985; Pawtucket is expected to lose 4.3 per cent of its population; and Woonsocket may decline from 47,080 to 45,650 in 1985, for a loss of 3.0 per cent.

In contrast, Cranston is expected to increase its population 42 per cent from a 1960 level of 66,766 to 94,810 by 1985, and Warwick should increase from 68,504 to 96,700 in 1985, for a 41.2 per cent gain. Among the cities and towns that expect substantial population increases by 1985 are Cumberland and Middletown, in excess of 100 per cent over their 1960 population; Coventry and South Kingstown, between 75 to 100 per cent; and in the 50 to 74 per cent increase group are Barrington, Bristol, East Providence,

Johnston, North Kingstown and North Providence.

If the projections of population made by the Rhode Island Development Council come to pass, it is very likely the most urbanized state in the Union will soon become the most suburbanized.